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GOOLE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Library

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

1964

GOOLE:
GOOLE TIMES COMPANY LIMITED
1965

GOOLE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman :

Councillor R. H. COULMAN

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor T. H. HOTCHIN

Medical Officer of Health :

S. KENNAUGH APPLETON,

S.B.ST.J., M.D., CH.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

MURIEL J. LOWE,

M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Public Health Inspector :

J. ALLAN POTTS, A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.

To the Chairman and Members of the GOOLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my eighteenth Annual Report on the health of the District and the work of the Health Department for the year 1964.

The Birth Rate was 17·4 per thousand population (Adjusted Birth Rate 17·0), which is below the W.R. Rural District Aggregate Rate of 19·1. The Rate for England and Wales was 18·4.

The Crude Death Rate was 11·2 (Adjusted Death Rate 12·1). The W.R. Rural Rate was 10·0 and that for England and Wales 11·3.

Of the 99 deaths, 42 (42·4%) occurred at the age of 75 years and over ; of these, 14 were 85 years or more and 4 over 90 years.

Live Births exceeded Deaths by 54.

There were only 2 infant deaths, giving a Rate of 13·1 per thousand live births. The W.R. Rural Rate was 22·5 and the Rate for England and Wales was 20·0.

Infectious disease notifications totalled 134. Of these, measles accounted for 119. The District has been free from diphtheria for 21 years.

This Division took part in the Measles Vaccination Trial in October and November and I am gratified that so many parents accepted my assurance that the vaccination would be both beneficial and harmless and registered their children. About 33 per cent. of children eligible were registered. The trial was limited to selected children between the ages of ten months and two years. 148 children were selected by birthday date and received two injections, the others being registered as controls. All have been followed up at quarterly intervals. Over a six months period measles has occurred in this age group as follows:

Children vaccinated	...	...	...	...	...	1
Children registered as controls	...	...	...	...	...	13
Children not registered	...	...	...	...	...	27

At this stage the value of vaccination against measles looks promising.

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE :

This Rate, which is calculated on the number of stillbirths plus the number of first week deaths per 1,000 total births, called for unfavourable comment in my last Annual Report. One must not attach too much importance to sudden annual fluctuations, either good or bad, as they are seldom permanent, but it is a relief this year to report that this Rate is the lowest ever recorded at 19·4. The County Rate is 30·0. This raised the Rural District from 86th position to 17th position in the 89 constituent authorities in the West Riding.

CANCER :

Deaths from malignant neoplasms showed an unwelcome rise to 26 persons, the highest number recorded in any one year so far.

Therefore, it seems appropriate to quote from a small booklet published by the Cancer Information Centre which exists "not to frighten but to enlighten," a few sentences which have an urgent message for everyone.

"It is tragic that a human being should lose his life through lack of information on how to save it; it is even more tragic for him to delay acting on what he knows until it is too late.

Cancer is so common that none of us will go through life without it crossing our path, even if we are lucky enough to avoid a personal collision with it. We must learn to recognise the Seven Danger Signals and be aware of the absolute necessity of treatment at the earliest indication of cancerous growth.

The Seven Danger Signals are:

1. Unusual bleeding or discharge.
2. A lump or thickening in the breast or elsewhere.
3. A sore that does not heal.
4. Change in bowel or bladder habits.
5. Hoarseness or cough.
6. Difficulty in swallowing.
7. Change in a wart or mole.

If your signal lasts more than four weeks go to your doctor. Usually they are symptoms of some disorder other than cancer, but they may indicate the presence of a malignant growth . . . Following this rule has saved many lives, and some day it may save yours."

MENTAL HEALTH:

By the end of 1964 the Rawcliffe Training Centre for severely subnormal patients had reached its overall capacity of 64 patients and plans for considerable extensions are under consideration. Adults are doing regular sub-contract work for County Supplies and are earning up to 7/6d. a week incentive money.

In December a Day Social Centre for patients convalescing from psychiatric illness became fully operative in the old school at Snaith and is the first Centre of this kind in the West Riding. Here patients can rehabilitate socially and industrially under the guidance of an instructor on their progression from hospital back to full community life. Patients from Goole, Selby and Thorne may attend on the recommendation of the psychiatrists responsible for their treatment.

Finally, I place on record my thanks for the continued support of the Members and Officers of the Council, and to the Voluntary Committees for their services at the Clinics.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

S. KENNAUGH APPLETON,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1965.

1964

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Rural District	...	...	...	...	38,238 acres
Population (mid-1964)	...	...	...	...	8,800
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	3,002
Rateable Value (1/4/65)	...	...	...	...	£198,192
Estimated Product of Penny Rate (1/4/65)	...	...	...	...	£781/19/2

VITAL STATISTICS

	GOOLE R.D.	Aggregate West Riding R.D.s	West Riding Admin. County	England & Wales (provi- sional)
BIRTH RATE				
(per 1,000 population)	17.4	19.1	18.5	18.4
CRUDE DEATH RATES				
All causes	11.2	10.0	11.5	11.3
Infective and Parasitic Diseases	0	0.04	0.04	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	0	0.02	0.05	0.05
Other forms of Tuber- culosis	0	0.00	0.00	0.01
R e s p i r a t o r y D i s e a s e s e x c l u d i n g R e s p i r a t o r y Tuberculosis	1.14	1.11	1.37	—
Cancer	2.95	1.86	2.02	2.11
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	3.86	3.71	4.37	—
V a s c u l a r L e s i o n o f Nervous System	1.59	1.38	1.74	—
INFANT MORTALITY				
(Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	13.1	22.5	22.2	20.0
Stillbirths	12.9	15.9	17.6	16.3
PERINATAL MORTALITY	19.4	28.3	30.0	—
MATERNAL MORTALITY				
(Deaths of mothers in childbirth per 1,000 total births)	0	0.21	0.40	0.25

COMPARABILITY FACTORS

For Births	...	0.98	Adjusted Birth Rate	17.0
For Deaths	...	1.08	Adjusted Death Rate	12.1

BIRTHS

			Male.	Female.	Total.
LIVE BIRTHS: Legitimate	...	...	81	66	147
Illegitimate	...	...	5	1	6
			—	—	—
Total	...	...	86	67	153
STILLBIRTHS	...	...	1	1	2

**Birth and Death Rates, 1964,
and Mean Rates for Decennial Periods**

BIRTH RATE—17·4

(per 1,000 population)

1901-1910	...	...	27·4	1931-1940	...	...	16·2
1911-1920	...	...	23·6	1941-1950	...	...	18·3
1921-1930	...	...	22·1	1951-1960	...	...	15·4

STILLBIRTHS—12·9

(per 1,000 total births)

1901-1910	...	...	—	1931-1940	...	...	39·1
1911-1920	...	...	—	1941-1950	...	...	33·2
1921-1930	...	...	—	1951-1960	...	...	25·6

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS—38·7

(per 1,000 total births)

1901-1910	...	...	67·8	1931-1940	...	...	49·3
1911-1920	...	...	88·6	1941-1950	...	...	71·6
1921-1930	...	...	72·1	1951-1960	...	...	46·7

INFANTILE MORTALITY—13·1

(per 1,000 live births)

1901-1910	...	...	134·7	1931-1940	...	...	59·0
1911-1920	...	...	100·4	1941-1950	...	...	43·3
1921-1930	...	...	82·6	1951-1960	...	...	33·9

NEONATAL MORTALITY—13·1

(deaths in first month per 1,000 live births)

1901-1910	...	...	24·5	1931-1940	...	...	26·6
1911-1920	...	...	25·5	1941-1950	...	...	19·8
1921-1930	...	...	22·3	1951-1960	...	...	22·8

PERINATAL MORTALITY—19·4

(stillbirths and first week deaths per 1,000 total births)

1931-1940	...	...	64·7	1951-1960	...	...	45·1
1941-1950	...	...	53·1				

TOTAL DEATH RATE—11·2

(per 1,000 population)

1901-1910	...	...	15·7	1931-1940	...	...	11·5
1911-1920	...	...	14·7	1941-1950	...	...	11·3
1921-1930	...	...	12·1	1951-1960	...	...	10·2

DISEASES OF HEART AND CIRCULATION—3·86

1901-1910	...	...	1·71	1931-1940	...	...	3·73
1911-1920	...	...	1·03	1941-1950	...	...	3·54
1921-1930	...	...	2·22	1951-1960	...	...	3·80

VASCULAR DISEASES OF CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM —1·59

1901-1910	—	1931-1940	0·76
1911-1920	...	...	—	1941-1950	...	...	0·97
1921-1930	...	...	0·79	1951-1960	...	...	1·13

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS—2·95

1901-1910	...	...	0·88	1931-1940	...	...	1·28
1911-1920	...	...	1·04	1941-1950	...	...	1·70
1921-1930	...	...	1·37	1951-1960	...	...	1·82

RESPIRATORY DISEASES—1·14

1901-1910	...	...	2·48	1931-1940	...	...	0·77
1911-1920	...	...	1·88	1941-1950	...	...	0·95
1921-1930	...	...	1·45	1951-1960	...	...	1·07

INFECTIVE AND PARASITIC DISEASES—0

1901-1910	...	...	1·22	1931-1940	...	...	0·23
1911-1920	...	...	1·26	1941-1950	...	...	0·15
1921-1930	...	...	0·57	1951-1960	...	...	0·06

RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS—0

1901-1910	...	...	0·73	1931-1940	...	...	0·33
1911-1920	...	...	0·67	1941-1950	...	...	0·37
1921-1930	...	...	0·61	1951-1960	...	...	0·06

NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS—0

1901-1910	...	...	0·70	1931-1940	...	...	0·13
1911-1920	...	...	0·30	1941-1950	...	...	0·09
1921-1930	...	...	0·29	1951-1960	...	...	0·02

MATERNAL MORTALITY—0

(per 1,000 total births)

1901-1910	...	...	5·33	1931-1940	...	...	4·54
1911-1920	...	...	4·74	1941-1950	...	...	1·17
1921-1930	...	...	3·92	1951-1960	...	...	0·63

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1964

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0	0
Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	3	5
Malignant neoplasm, lungs, bronchus ...	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	0	0
Other malignant neoplasms	6	11	17
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	0	0
Vascular lesions, nervous system ...	5	9	14
Coronary disease, angina	13	10	23
Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	0	1
Other heart disease	3	6	9
Other circulatory diseases	0	1	1
Influenza	0	1	1
Pneumonia	1	3	4
Bronchitis	5	0	5
Other respiratory disease	0	0	0
Ulcer of stomach, duodenum	0	0	0
Gastritis, enteritis	0	0	0
Nephritis	2	0	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth	—	0	0
Congenital malformations	0	0	0
Motor vehicle accidents	3	1	4
All other accidents	2	2	4
Suicide	0	0	0
All other causes	3	1	4
	—	—	—
Total	48	51	99

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases during 1964

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Pulmonary	0	0	0
Non-pulmonary	0	0	0

Total cases on the Register:

Pulmonary	16	24*	40
Non-pulmonary	4	2†	6

* Includes 7 cases in a residential institution in the District.

† Includes 2 cases in a residential institution in the District.

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1964

Causes of Death in Age Groups

		Under 1 week.	1 to 2 weeks.	2 to 3 weeks.	3 to 4 weeks.	1 to 3 months.	3 to 6 months.	6 to 9 months.	9 to 12 months.	Total.
Prematurity ...		1								1
Misadventure ...				1						1
Total ...		1		1						2

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1964

				No. of cases notified								
				At all ages	According to Age							
					Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	Over 64	
Smallpox									
Diphtheria									
Erysipelas									
Scarlet Fever										
Enteric Fevers										
Puerperal Pyrexia										
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...											
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...											
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...											
Other forms of Tuberculosis												
Measles	119	3	59	55		1	1		
Primary Pneumonia			...									
Influenzal Pneumonia			...									
Whooping Cough	15		8	7					
Dysentery									
Acute Poliomyelitis (P)			...									
Food Poisoning										
Totals	134	3	67	62		1	1		

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

Part I. — Inspections

Premises.	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by L.A.s	4	2	0	0
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A.s	27	19	0	0
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A.s	7	24	0	0
Total ..	38	45	0	0

Part I. — Defects

Particulars.	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.I.	Referred by H.M.I.	Prosecutions instituted
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding (S.2)	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary conveniences insufficient, unsuitable or defective (S.7)	2	2	0	0	0
Other offences	0	0	0	0	0
Total ..	2	2	0	0	0

Part VIII.: Outworkers — Nil.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The Miniature Radiography Unit did not visit the District during 1964.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

No action under these Acts was taken in 1964.

WEST RIDING COUNTY DIVISIONAL HEALTH

SERVICES IN GOOLE R.D., 1964

The Public Health Nursing Staff in this Division no longer works according to County District boundaries. Most of the figures in the following summaries refer to Goole R.D., but in certain cases the figures are those for the Rural District and Goole Borough combined, or for Division No. 10 as a whole.

1. BIRTHS: Live 147 ; Stillbirths 2 ; Illegitimate 6 ; Males 81 ; Female 66.

2.. PREMATURE BABIES—Babies weighing 5½lb. or less at birth:

(i) Born at home	...	...	...	1	Stillborn	1
(ii) Born in Hospital	...	...	...	5	„	0
				—		—
Total	...	...	...	6	„	1

3. HEALTH VISITING (for Division No. 10 as a whole):

			First Visits.	Other Visits.	Total.
Expectant Mothers	...	...	376	171	547
Children under 1 year	...	...	795	3207	4002
Children between 1 and 5	...	...	2048	3560	5608
Other cases	...	...	—	5337	5337
Ineffective visits	...	...	905	1522	2427
			—	—	—
Total	...	...	4124	13797	17921

4. CHILD WELFARE CLINICS:

(a) Total number of children under 5 years of age who first attended the Clinics during the year:

Born in 1964	...	...	...	...	...	79
Born 1963-59	...	...	...	...	...	207

Number of sessions held:

SNAITH	...	...	...	...	...	51
Total attendance	...	...	...	...	...	1675
Average per session	...	...	...	...	...	32.8
SWINEFLEET	...	...	...	...	...	48
Total attendance	...	...	...	...	...	774
Average per session	...	...	...	...	...	16.1

Of the above, 41 Selby Rural children made 254 visits to Goole Rural Clinics and 74 Goole Rural children made 395 visits to Goole Borough Clinics.

5. SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE:

Attendances at School Clinic	93
Number attending Pædiatric Consultant	20
Number attending County Oculist	116
Number prescribed Spectacles	44
Number attending Speech Therapy	2
Number inspected in school by School M.O.	466
Number inspected in school by School Nurse	5228
Number of Verminous Heads	2
Tests for Subnormality	5
Re-examinations	2
Reported to M.D. Authority as ineducable	1
Recommended for Residential School	2
Attending Residential Schools	3
Reported to M.D. Authority for supervision	1

The following defects were found at Medical Inspections:
 Requiring For obser-
 treatment. vation.

Verminous heads	2	0
Skin	9	6
Vision	23	11
Other eye conditions	1	—
Hearing	11	6
Other ear defects	1	2
Nose and Throat	4	15
Speech	5	16
Cervical glands	1	4
Heart and circulation	—	2
Lungs	—	4
Developmental	15	6
Orthopædic	—	1
Nervous system	3	—
Psychological	—	—
Other conditions	—	—

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE (Division No. 10 as a whole).

Number inspected	6133
Requiring treatment	3867
Offered treatment	3294
Treated	1603

6. MATERNITY SERVICES:

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC:

Snaith, Swinefleet.

Number of patients attending	9	12
Total number of attendances	31	45
Number of sessions held	25	25
Average attendance per session	1.2	1.8

Included in the above are 12 expectant mothers from Selby Rural District, who made 34 visits to the Snaith Clinic. In addition, 5 expectant mothers made 28 attendances at the Goole Ante-Natal Clinic.

MOTHERS CONFINED IN HOSPITAL:

Goole Maternity Home	...	...	...	...	...	29
Leeds Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wakefield Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	45
Other Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	6
Total	...	...	...	...	...	81

COUNTY MIDWIVES:

There were 73 domiciliary confinements in the Rural District.

The following summary of the work of the County Midwives is for Division No. 10 as a whole:

Number of Midwives	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of cases	...	...	...	...	...	374
Number of visits	...	...	...	...	...	11137
Gas and air analgesia	...	...	...	...	...	0
Trilene analgesia	...	...	...	...	...	295

7. HOME NURSING (Division No. 10 as a whole):

Number of Nurses	...	...	...	...	...	6
Number of cases completed	...	...	...	...	...	369
Number of visits	...	...	...	...	...	12179

8. HOME HELPS:

Home Helps were employed for 80,272 hours attending cases in the Division.

They attended the following cases in Goole R.D.:

Maternity	...	...	4	Chronic Sick (under 65)	6
Chronic Sick (over 65)	...	...	88	Other	...
	...	...	...	...	2

9. IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA—during 1964:

Children under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	105
Children over 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	6
Total	...	...	...	...	...	111
Booster Doses	...	...	...	...	...	153
Total	...	...	...	...	...	264

Total number of children under 15 years of age who have been immunised up to the 31st December, 1964:

Age—Years	0—1	1—4	5—9	10—14	Total under 15
Number	67	305	551	547	1470
Percentage	54.9		77.8		69.6

10. IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH—
during 1964:

Under 6 months	...	...	...	...	...	43
6 months to 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	24
1—2 years	...	...	...	...	...	30
2—3 years	...	...	...	...	...	3
3—4 years	...	...	...	...	...	4
Total	...	...	...	...	...	104

11. B.C.G. VACCINATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN (13 years
of age):

Number of acceptances in 1964	...	...	74
Pre-Vaccination Tuberculin Tests	...	...	74
Positive (not requiring vaccination)	...	8	(10·8%)
Negative (requiring vaccination)	...	66	(89·2%)
Number vaccinated with B.C.G.	...	...	63

12. VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS:

Total registered to 31st December, 1964	...	...	4,490
Vaccinations completed	...	...	4,455

13. MENTAL HEALTH:

Mental Health Act, 1959.

The number of persons under care and guidance at the
end of 1964 were as follows:

	Male.	Female.	Total
Psychopathic
Subnormal
Severely Subnormal
Mentally ill

Admission to Mental Hospitals by the Mental Welfare
Officers during 1964 were as follows:

	Male.	Female.	Total
Emergency Admissions
Admissions for Observation
Admissions for Treatment
Informal Admissions

PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION No. 10

The County Districts forming Division No. 10 are:

Goole Borough (1,267 acres)	Selby Urban (3,883 acres)
Goole Rural (38,238 acres)	Selby Rural (33,304 acres)
Area of the Division	76,692 acres
Population (estimated mid-1964)	45,060
(Census 1961)	44,533

DIVISIONAL HEALTH OFFICE & STAFF :

6/7, Belgravia, Goole (Telephone Goole 936 & 123)

Divisional Medical Officer & Divisional School Medical Officer :
S. KENNAUGH APPLETON, S.B.ST.J., M.D., CH.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer & School Medical Officer :

MURIEL J. LOWE, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Assistant County Medical Officer & School Medical Officer :
EILEEN M. R. BELL-SYER, M.B., B.S.

School Dental Officers :

P. F. A. ELTOME, L.D.S.

M. R. HOLLINGS, B.SC.D., F.D.S.R.C.S. (ENG.)

Divisional Nursing Officer: Vacant.

Health Visitors and School Nurses :

Mrs. B. BEAL, Miss D. M. BUTLER, Mrs. M. DODSON.
Mrs. M. HARGREAVES, Mrs. M. KELLY, Miss A. RIDSDALE,
Miss D. M. ROBINSON, Mrs. A. SUTHERLAND (part-time),
Mrs. M. E. WILLIAMS (Assistant).

Home Nurses :

Mrs. H. B. BEAUMONT, Mrs. S. CLAYBOURN, Mrs. M. LUND,
Mrs. W. E. DUFFIN, Mrs. L. A. POLLARD, Mrs. J. SAWDON.

Domiciliary Midwives :

Miss E. CLAYTON, Miss I. CAMPBELL, Miss H. ELLIS,
Mrs. D. FRANKLIN, Mrs. M. E. HORNSHAW, Mrs. A. G.
HORSFIELD, Mrs. M. M. HUGHES, Miss E. D. LAKING.

Mental Health Officers :

Mr. T. G. FOSTER, Miss M. J. HURLEY.

Rawcliffe Training Centre :

Supervisor: Miss C. S. LOGAN.

Staff: Mrs. A. ALVEY, Mrs. E. GOODALL, Mr. R. C. HUNT,
Mrs. C. M. LAZENBY, Mrs. E. ROSE, Miss D. STOCKTON.

Speech Therapist: Miss R. P. ROGERS (Divisions 9, 10 and 11).

Welfare Officer: Mr. N. SUTCLIFFE.

Blind Welfare: Mrs. J. KILNER (Goole 937).

Clerical :

Senior Clerk: Mr. R. TOWELL.

Miss S. L. BRAMHAM, Mrs. M. E. BRYARS (part-time),
Mrs. B. BUCKLE, Miss F. A. CAMPBELL, Mr. J. LAWTON.
Mr. G. N. NOWILL, Mrs. M. READSHAW (part-time),
Miss J. ROCKETT, Miss J. E. SMAJE.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1964

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE GOOLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM, GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1964.

To avoid reproducing tables of uninteresting statistics I must give some brief paragraphs upon selected items from the year's happenings. As I make a written monthly report to the Council there must inevitably be some repetition of items which have been brought to your notice during the year. I hope that you will not accuse me of trying to indulge in "brain-washing" techniques or find the report boring.

For my part the investigation of the year's events to produce a potted history or annual scrapbook on selected topics is a stimulating and at times a most thought-provoking exercise.

Yours faithfully,

J. ALLAN POTTS,

Surveyor and Public Health
Inspector.

HOUSING.

Every Annual Report that I have made to you starts with this subject. It is the most important, the most urgent, and the most frustrating public health problem that you face.

A reappraisal of the housing situation was carried out during the year. This produced the almost alarming estimate that 422 houses could be classified as unfit for habitation.

The bottleneck which is restricting our housing programme is still the acquisition of land. A typical case is a site at Rawcliffe Bridge: in December, 1963, the Council declared an area to be a Clearance Area and a few weeks later, in January, 1964, decided to purchase the land and build 42 houses and bungalows on it. The owners of the property did not dispute that the houses were unfit and should be demolished; they did not object to selling the land to the Council; but they could not agree with the price the District Valuer was prepared to sanction. In September, 1964, negotiations were declared abortive and the Council made a Compulsory Purchase Order. A Ministry Local Inquiry was held in January, 1965, and as this is being written in June, 1965, the result is still not known.

The amount of paper work involved in drawing plans, writing reports and dealing with negotiations, hearings, appeals, tribunals and the like is entirely disproportionate to the issues and site values of small rural housing projects.

Local authorities are currently being urged from all quarters to build prefabricated houses, factory-built houses, or system buildings, to use a variety of labels for what one manufacturer terms "instant housing." Up to the present time, at any rate, the actual construction of the new houses is the easiest part by far of our housing projects. What we need is not "Instant Housing" but "Instant Whitehall."

In contrast to the pause forced upon the council building programme, local private enterprise building has been forging ahead and 53 private houses were built—a post-war record. The industry shows no slackening off and it seems likely that this number will increase over the next few years. Several quite large projects are in the offing, including one estate of 146 and one of 82 houses.

As the population figure for the whole area around Goole is either declining or fairly static, this activity on the part of private building must produce a noticeable improvement in the general level of housing conditions and is therefore to be welcomed.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

As predicted in my 1962 Annual Report, the Hook sewage works now require additional capacity to cope with the extra load imposed by new housing development.

A start was made during the year with the preliminary work on the sewerage schemes for Reedness, Whitgift, Ousefleet and Adlingfleet which will complete the Council's programme.

A joint scheme undertaken with the Isle of Axholme Rural District Council to provide sewerage in Fockerby, Haldenby and Eastoft is awaiting Ministry inquiry.

During the year the Council purchased a 1,100-gallon gully/cesspool emptying machine and this is proving invaluable in maintaining the sewers as well as its other work of dealing with septic tanks and road gullies. Regular flushing is an essential where gradients are at a minimum—or even below “textbook absolute minimum”—as is the case with the majority of our sewers. It is also, of course, vitally necessary to keep the road gullies clean as grit washing into the pipelines does not get washed away in the sluggish flow but builds up into a solid mass akin to concrete. In one or two cases specialist contractors have been called in to clear sewers of this sediment.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The Swinefleet Common tip is now closed. A bulldozer levelled out the whole area and the land was left in first-class order. Regrettably, some local farmers, deprived of a place to carry out indiscriminate dumping of rubbish, have taken to “tip and run” tactics in the local dykes and hedge bottoms.

We now have only two tips in general operation to cover the whole district—one at Cowick serving the western area, and one at Hook serving the east side of the district.

The length of run to tip has increased enormously over the past few years. Not long ago nearly every group of population had a tip on its doorstep. Usually these small tips were convenient and offensive. With large tips one can keep much better control over operations and our tips now bear comparison with any. The increase in costs for these improvements is money well spent.

The old Rawcliffe tip has been seeded over and is now well on the way to being a useful piece of agricultural land. Unfortunately, the County Council still occupy one section where many tons of kerbs and rubble have been stockpiled for years and form a breeding ground for vermin and an invitation to others to carry out indiscriminate tipping.

In my report for 1961 I drew attention to the “two-mile rule” which prevented our tipping within this distance from the waterworks borehole. I had always been of the opinion

that this rule of thumb was not based on any known facts but was a figure chosen almost at random that had gradually become established as an inviolate principle.

Things came to a head with the Water Board's proposal to sink new boreholes at Carlton and Cowick—both within two miles of existing tips. At the Board's request a Ministry investigation was held and as a result the two-mile rule can now be said to be well and truly dead. The fact that it required years of talk and a top-level investigation to kill what was so obviously a fallacy should be a lesson to all of us engaged in local administration to pause at intervals, take a deep introspective look at our handling of the job in hand, and ask a simple question—"Why?" If the answer is simply "Because we always have done," it is a danger sign which must not be ignored.

FOOD INSPECTION.

There is now a large food processing factory and a warehouse dealing exclusively with imported food in the district. It is therefore to be expected that there has been an increase in the amount of work done on food inspection. During the year 1,690lb. of various foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

The "corned beef scare" following the Aberdeen typhoid outbreak entailed a spurt of furious activity visiting all shops for suspect tins on two separate occasions. This at least made the public in general aware that some form of supervision exists over food supplies—a fact that many people appear to know little about and to care even less.

OFFICES, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The administration of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, ran into difficulties as was foreseen when the Council first considered the matter.

It was not found possible to make any special inspections of premises for the purposes of the Act, and with present staff and commitments I see no prospect of special inspections being done except at the expense of more pressing work.

CARAVAN SITES.

Groups of itinerant traders have caused trouble in the Pollington area by using three places as caravan sites. The occupiers of the land provided no facilities and the places became a nuisance. Matters in general were made worse by the activities of the visitors which consisted mainly of accumulating scrap, taking out the valuable bits—such as the plates from car batteries—and dumping the useless parts on the site or on nearby road sides.

At the end of the year prosecutions were pending.